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Matters relating to capacity-building for developing countries
Capacity-building under the Convention
Capacity-building under the Kyoto Protocol

Capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol

Compilation and synthesis report by the secretariat

Summary

This report was prepared to inform discussions taking place at the 7th meeting of the Durban Forum for in-depth discussion on capacity-building and the 1st meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building. The report compiles and synthesizes information on capacity-building contained in reports published by relevant bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol and by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund Board from 1 January to 31 December 2017.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat to compile and synthesize the reports prepared by the relevant bodies established under the Convention since the most recent meeting of the Durban Forum and to make the resulting report available to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its sessions coinciding with the meetings of the Durban Forum to facilitate the discussions of the Durban Forum.[1]

2. The COP decided to include the compilation and synthesis report on capacity-building work of bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol in the inputs to the Paris Committee on Capacity-building.[2]

B. Scope of the report

3. This report synthesizes information relevant to capacity-building contained in the following reports prepared from 1 January to 31 December 2017:

(a) Progress of work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE);[3]

(b) Reports on the 31st and 32nd meetings of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG);[4]

(c) Report of the Adaptation Committee (AC);[5]

(d) Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;[6]

(e) Joint annual report of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) for 2017;[7]

(f) Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF);[8]

(g) Annual report of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM) to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP);[9]

(h) Report of the Green Climate Fund (GCF);[10]

(i) Report of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to the COP;[11]

(j) Report of the Adaptation Fund Board (AFB).[12]

4. A compilation of specific capacity-building activities undertaken by bodies established under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol is provided in the addendum[13] to this report.

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[1] Decisions 2/CP.17, paragraph 146, and 1/CP.18, paragraph 78.
[2] Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 79.
[3] FCCC/SBI/2017/15.
[4] FCCC/SBI/2017/6 and FCCC/SBI/2017/14, respectively.
[5] FCCC/SB/2017/2 and Add.1.
[6] FCCC/SB/2017/1 and Add.1.
[7] FCCC/SB/2017/3.
[8] FCCC/CP/2017/9.
[9] FCCC/KP/CMP/2017/5.
[10] FCCC/CP/2017/5.
[11] FCCC/CP/2017/7 and Add.2.
[12] FCCC/KP/CMP/2017/6.
[13] FCCC/SBI/2018/3/Add.1.

II. Capacity-building elements in the work of bodies established under the Convention

A. Emerging trends

5. Recognizing the cross-cutting nature of capacity-building, and the increasing demand for capacity-building in implementing the Paris Agreement, **a significant increase in the identification of synergies and opportunities for collaboration in the delivery of capacity-building activities among UNFCCC constituted bodies and expert groups as well as between these bodies and intergovernmental organizations** was noted in the reporting period.

6. Driven by mandates and inspired by common medium- and long-term objectives, all bodies undertook outreach efforts to strengthen dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among bodies and processes under the Convention, or identified entry points for collaboration.

7. Bodies also intensified their planning and implementation of capacity-building activities through partnerships and joint initiatives with external stakeholders. These cooperation efforts benefited from the distinctive expertise, experience and resources of the partners involved. Examples of reported collaborations, partnerships or joint initiatives are:

(a) The CGE: with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (UNDP and UNEP jointly administer the Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;

(b) The LEG: with the GCF and GEF secretariats;

(c) The AC: with the partner organizations of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, CTCN, Adaptation Fund, GCF, GEF, NAP Global Network, and the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (jointly administered by UNDP and UNEP);

(d) The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism: with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, Platform on Disaster Displacement, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNDP, and civil society through the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility;

(e) The TEC: with the GCF and GEF secretariats.

(f) The SCF: with the GCF and GEF.

B. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Consultative Group of Experts

8. During the reporting period, the CGE, in line with its mandate, continued to respond to the need for enhancing the capacity of Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) to prepare their national communications (NCs) and biennial update reports (BURs), and of experts nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts to conduct the technical analysis of BURs.

9. The CGE organized regional hands-on training workshops, which contributed to enhancing the depth of the technical knowledge of experts from non-Annex I Parties and enabled the exchange of views, lessons learned and experience relating to the process and preparation of NCs and BURs and to the preparation of national greenhouse gas inventories.

10. The CGE also continued to assess emerging problems and constraints, lessons learned and best practices identified in the reporting process by non-Annex I Parties, including the challenges and needs reported by them in their most recent NCs and BURs.[14] This assessment led to the identification of a range of actions addressing the specific needs of non-Annex I Party experts, including the updating of training materials, the launch of additional tools targeting certain reporting areas and expert groups, and the organization of webinars on priority thematic areas.

C. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

11. In 2017, the LEG continued to provide technical guidance and support to the least developed countries (LDCs) on aspects related to adaptation planning and implementation.

12. As regards its provision of support to the national adaptation plan (NAP) process, the LEG, including through the support of its NAP technical working group, conducted five regional training workshops, which contributed to strengthening the capacity of countries to formulate and implement NAPs, and two regional NAP Expos, which provided the opportunity for a wide range of actors and stakeholders to exchange experience on advancing the process to formulate and implement NAPs and to foster partnerships.

13. The LEG updated some national NAP case studies, which helped provide practical examples of how the process to formulate and implement NAPs can be rolled out at the national level. Furthermore, the LEG developed and applied during the regional training workshops (see para. 12 above) the Integrative Framework for NAPs and Sustainable Developed Goals (NAP-SDG iFrame). This framework aims to assist the integration of different country-driven and country-specific components, enabling the consideration of how to address the Sustainable Development Goals while preparing NAPs. The LEG also continued to develop NAP Central to service information needs regarding NAPs. NAP Central currently hosts NAPs from nine developing countries as well as the NAP Support Tracker and other tools and functions.

14. During the reporting period, the LEG, in collaboration with the GCF secretariat, continued to provide technical guidance on accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. It also worked on developing frequently asked questions addressing the emerging needs and challenges faced by countries in accessing funding from the GCF, and on developing indicative sets of activities, reflecting different national circumstances and stages involved in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, for inclusion in proposals for accessing funding from the GCF.

D. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Adaptation Committee

15. During the reporting period, the AC made progress on a range of activities aimed at providing technical support and guidance to developing countries in two main areas, namely adaptation action and means of implementation, which encompass finance, technology and capacity-building.

16. In particular, the AC promoted discussion on enhanced action on adaptation prior to 2020 in the context of the technical examination process on Adaptation, and concentrated its efforts on information products and tools with a view to increasing access by developing countries to technical information on a spectrum of adaptation-related areas. For example, in collaboration with the Nairobi work programme and the CTCN secretariats, the AC prepared an initial map of existing platforms of national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks that provide technical support to developing countries on adaptation, and, in collaboration with the Adaptation Fund, the GCF, the GEF, the LEG and the SCF, it agreed to periodically prepare and distribute the *UNFCCC Adaptation Finance Bulletin*, an innovative means of disseminating information on adaptation finance.

[14] See document FCCC/SBI/2017/16 for more information.

17. In the context of accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, the AC prepared an information paper on the experience of countries with the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. Furthermore, it endorsed a concept note for a workshop, in collaboration with the GCF secretariat, on engaging stakeholders, including national implementing entities (NIEs) and national designated authorities (NDAs), in order to advance their understanding of and overcome challenges relating to establishing national entities for direct access and access to the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. It was agreed that the workshop would be organized in conjunction with the 2018 NAP Expo, which is tentatively scheduled to take place in April 2018.

E. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

18. Since the previous reporting period, the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism has made notable progress on its capacity-building work relating to the functions of the Mechanism in promoting the implementation of a variety of approaches to avert, minimize and address the risk of loss and damage.

19. In order to enhance understanding of and promote comprehensive risk management, the Executive Committee undertook a wide range of awareness-raising, outreach and information-sharing activities, in particular synthesizing information on the current landscape of climate risk analysis for extreme and slow onset events in developing countries, compiling a compendium of approaches for risk assessment, reduction transfer and retention, and social protection as well as transformational approaches,[15] and organizing a side event on risk financing for slow onset events.[16]

20. Furthermore, the Fiji Clearing House for Risk Transfer[17] and its interactive platform RISK TALK, launched at COP 23, bridges the worldwide supply of know-how about risk management and risk transfer and the needs of vulnerable countries and communities. Using cutting-edge technology, RISK TALK connects experts and those in search of risk transfer solutions and enables them to easily start building tailor-made solutions that foster climate-resilient sustainable development.

21. Following a mandate from COP 21,[18] the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism operationalized a task force on displacement, comprising experts from external institutions, with the aim of developing recommendations, through the implementation of its workplan, for integrated approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change.

F. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network

22. The TEC and the CTCN continued to strengthen their collaboration in 2017 in order to enhance coherence and synergy in the work of the Technology Mechanism. In supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the TEC and the CTCN jointly advanced discussions on climate technology research, development and demonstration, including by hosting meetings during and after the forty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies. They also worked side by side to strengthen the technology needs assessment (TNA) process by considering how assistance could be provided to Parties to align their

[15] Available at http://unfccc.int/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/items/10326.php.

[16] See http://unfccc.int/adaptation/groups_committees/loss_and_damage_executive_committee/items/10502.php for more information.

[17] http://unfccc-clearinghouse.org/.

[18] Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 49.

TNAs with their process to formulate and implement national climate action plans. The collaboration was extended to the process to prepare and implement technology action plans, which are the key deliverables of the TNA process for developing countries.

1. Technology Executive Committee

23. In 2017, the TEC continued to address capacity-building issues, including those related to the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies, to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

24. The TEC produced a series of publications and policy briefs intended to provide guidance to developing countries on several topics, including: the preparation of technology action plans; how best to exchange experience on technologies for adaptation in the context of South–South and triangular cooperation; the enhancement of technological innovation for implementing the Paris Agreement; and how to reach a deeper understanding of challenges and needs in relation to industrial energy and material efficiency in emission-intensive sectors. It also organized a thematic dialogue on industrial energy and material efficiency.

25. Furthermore, the TEC organized a special event exploring how technological innovation can support the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and mid-century strategies. More than 100 experts with a broad range of backgrounds participated in the event.

2. Climate Technology Centre and Network

26. In 2017, the CTCN, as the implementation arm of the Technology Mechanism, enhanced its provision of support to developing countries for their implementation of climate technologies in line with its three core functions:

(a) Responding to requests from developing countries;

(b) Fostering collaboration and access to information;

(c) Strengthening networks, partnerships and capacity-building.

27. The CTCN primarily undertook capacity-building activities in its work under its third function (see para. 26(c) above) at the global, regional and national level.

28. At the global level, the CTCN established a new capacity-building module to help countries develop a pipeline of concept notes on climate technology implementation, and continued to organize through its partner agencies several webinars and to run a secondment programme to enhance the secondees' understanding of climate technology implementation and knowledge transfer.

29. At the regional level, the CTCN held regional forums that further strengthened linkages between CTCN national designated entities (NDEs) and GCF NDAs, and organized workshops bringing together the national focal points of climate initiatives as well as national officials responsible for TNAs, NAPs and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) to discuss country priorities and strengthen synergies to accelerate technology transfer at the national level.

30. At the national level, the CTCN ran the Incubator Programme for the LDCs and continued to undertake capacity-building activities as part of its provision of technical assistance to developing countries that submit requests through their NDEs. The Incubator Programme contributed to enhancing the capacity of the LDCs participating in it to develop high-quality requests for technical assistance and to attract investment, strengthen institutional capacity related to climate technologies, and reinforce national efforts on technology transfer in line with their national development objectives. The Incubator Programme was updated to include a stronger emphasis on the analysis of NDCs as a basis for the identification and prioritization of technology interventions that can support NDC objectives.

31. In terms of fostering collaboration and access to information, the CTCN knowledge management system continued to support developing country NDEs, broader government

decision makers and other climate technology practitioners with technical assistance and a wealth of information provided by consortium partners and network members.

G. Capacity-building elements in the work of the Standing Committee on Finance

32. The SCF addressed capacity-building issues mainly in the contexts of the 2017 SCF forum on the topic of mobilizing finance for climate-resilient infrastructure and of the sixth review of the Financial Mechanism.

33. The 2017 forum, attended by stakeholders from different backgrounds, including multilateral development banks, infrastructure associations, financial institutions and private sector entities, provided a platform for discussing barriers to financing climate-resilient infrastructure and ways to close the financing gap. The forum also enabled participants to explore best practices, lessons learned and opportunities related to strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks and institutional capacities to finance climate-resilient infrastructure, and produced recommendations on possible next steps to overcome barriers and close the financing gap. For instance, the forum raised awareness about the need for internationally recognized metrics and standards that can help determine what economic, social, environmental and resilience benefits infrastructure projects can result in. The participants also had a chance to discuss some of the common capacity issues they face when preparing project proposals and seeking funds for climate-resilient infrastructure.

34. An overview of capacity-building and readiness activities undertaken by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism was part of the technical paper produced as expert input by the SCF to the COP on the sixth review of the Financial Mechanism. The overview was prepared in the context of the disbursement of funds for activities in developing country Parties and the adequacy and accessibility thereof. The technical paper included information on the results and impacts achieved by capacity-building initiatives with resources provided through the Financial Mechanism.

III. Capacity-building elements in the work of bodies established under the Kyoto Protocol: Executive Board of the clean development mechanism

35. During the reporting period, the CDM Executive Board provided capacity-building support to a wide range of stakeholders, including designated national authorities (DNAs), to promote the use of the CDM as a tool for monitoring, reporting and verifying emission reductions as well as to monitor sustainable development co-benefits of CDM project activities and programmes of activities.

36. In particular, in 2017 the CDM Executive Board considered providing technical support to national financial institutions and support for convening stakeholders from the financial and investment communities with a view to assisting in arranging co-financing and refinancing of CDM project activities and programmes of activities that face barriers to financing their operations.[19]

37. In the context of its efforts to improve the regional distribution of project activities under the CDM, the CDM Executive Board continued to provide support to DNAs, including by means of regional training events on the CDM through the regional collaboration centres (RCCs), of global DNA Forums and of Nairobi Framework Partnership[20] working sessions held during the regional carbon forums.[21] In 2017, RCCs co-organized 19 capacity-building events – training sessions, workshops and webinars – with

[19] Decision 3/CMP.12, paragraph 4.

[20] See https://nfpartnership.org/partners/.

[21] Decision 6/CMP.11, paragraphs 25 and 26.

the participation of 438 DNAs and other stakeholders. RCC newsletters now reach more than 5,000 stakeholders across the globe and keep them abreast of the latest regional activities.

38. In response to the encouragement of the COP,[22] the CDM Executive Board, through the secretariat, posted a schedule of activities on the UNFCCC Newsroom web pages and UNFCCC social media channels to communicate the sustainable development co-benefits of CDM project activities and programmes of activities. A CDM benefits flyer[23] was developed and made available on the UNFCCC website and physically at COP 23.

39. Partners and cooperating organizations confirmed their commitment to continue supporting the Nairobi Framework Partnership to facilitate climate action through the CDM and other market-based approaches towards achieving the climate goals defined in the Paris Agreement, and they elaborated a medium-term work programme based on three thematic areas: carbon market frameworks, co-led by the World Bank and the UNFCCC secretariat; transparency and monitoring, reporting and verification, co-led by UNDP and UNEP DTU Partnership;[24] and financing mitigation action, co-led by UNDP, the UNFCCC secretariat and the African Development Bank.

40. In 2017, RCCs scaled up assistance to developing countries with a wide array of activities, including incentivizing projects by promoting: the use of certified emission reductions for voluntary climate neutrality under the Climate Neutral Now initiative;[25] the use of the CDM as part of development and climate strategies; and the benefits and potential broadened use of the CDM to underpin climate finance.

IV. Capacity-building elements reported by the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and the Adaptation Fund Board

A. Capacity-building elements in the report of the Green Climate Fund

41. During the reporting period, the GCF, in the context of its Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, provided financial support to developing countries in UNFCCC-defined priority areas for capacity-building[26] as follows: institutional capacity-building; enhancement and/or creation of an enabling environment; national climate change programmes; vulnerability and adaptation assessment; capacity-building for the implementation of adaptation measures; and education, training and public awareness.

42. Support was provided to NDAs and national focal points to prepare their strategic frameworks, including country programmes, and to develop GCF programme pipelines on mitigation and adaptation using a coherent approach. Furthermore, readiness resources were used to develop country-specific strategic frameworks for engagement with the GCF, building on existing strategies and plans (which include NAMAs, national adaptation programmes of action and NAPs), and to provide support for accreditation for direct access entities. During the reporting period, the GCF approved three requests for support for the formulation of NAPs and commenced disbursement in two of these cases. Furthermore, the readiness proposal template and the GCF readiness guidebook[27] were updated to provide guidance to countries on the formulation of adaptation planning and readiness proposals.

43. Beyond the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme, the GCF provided further support for capacity-building and provided the technical assistance components of

[22] Decision 6/CMP.11, paragraph 21.

[23] Available at https://cdm.unfccc.int/newsroom/latestnews/releases/2017/05112_index.html.

[24] The partnership, formerly known as the UNEP Risoe Centre, operates under a tripartite agreement between Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and UNEP.

[25] Decision 1/CP.19, paragraph 5(c). See also http://climateneutralnow.org/Pages/Home.aspx.

[26] Decision 2/CP.7, annex, paragraph 15.

[27] *GCF guidebook. Accessing the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme*. Available at https://www.greenclimate.fund.

projects and programmes approved to receive financing under its adaptation and mitigation thematic funding windows. Such financial support fell under the following UNFCCC-defined priority areas for capacity-building:[28] institutional capacity-building; enhancement and/or creation of an enabling environment; capacity-building for the implementation of adaptation measures; research and systematic observation, including meteorological, hydrological and climatological services; and education, training and public awareness.

44. The GCF secretariat maintained a steady dialogue with all accredited direct access entities and continued to explore opportunities to provide further technical support to NDAs and direct access entities for developing high-quality funding proposals. The GCF organizes an annual workshop to facilitate the engagement between the GCF secretariat and the accredited direct access entities, build their knowledge base to improve project design, enhance peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, strengthen the capacity of entities and countries, and build partnerships to address climate change. In addition, the workshop provided focused guidance on seven funding proposals put forward by accredited direct access entities, along with two enhancing direct access pilot proposals, to prepare them for the next (or final) stage of review. Furthermore, in 2017 the GCF secretariat undertook outreach activities through its regional structured dialogues (with Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific) to increase its engagement with countries and entities in working towards many of the capacity-building goals addressed by the annual workshop.

B. Capacity-building elements in the report of the Global Environment Facility

45. In response to requests of the COP, the GEF secretariat undertook a significant amount of capacity-building in a variety of areas during the reporting period and supported projects cutting across 11 UNFCCC-defined priority areas for capacity-building. The majority of the climate change mitigation projects addressed institutional capacity-building (including the strengthening or establishment of national climate change secretariats or national focal points), the development of national reports such as NCs and BURs, the enhancement and transfer of technologies and the enhancement of enabling conditions. Similarly, in climate change adaptation, efforts were made in the areas of institutional development and strengthening, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, the development of national climate change programmes, the implementation of adaptation measures, research and systemic observation through climate information systems, and public awareness and education programmes.

46. The GEF continued to support the implementation of Action for Climate Empowerment and the Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention, including by providing financial resources to non-Annex I Parties, in particular African States, the LDCs and small island developing States. As indicated in its 2017 annual report to the COP, the GEF, in the calendar year 2016, provided a minimum of USD 22 million towards education, training and public awareness through its regular climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes. In addition, many NC projects contained components that provided support in this area.

47. The establishment of the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) Trust Fund was finalized in September 2016. As indicated in its 2017 annual report to the COP, the GEF, in the calendar year 2016, received pledges amounting to USD 55.6 million for the CBIT Trust Fund and approved USD 12.7 million from the fund for 10 national projects[29] and one global project. The national projects respond to nationally identified priorities and are thus specific to each country's transparency-related capacity-building needs. However, they all seek to enhance coordination at the national level, improve or further develop national measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) frameworks and strengthen the institutional capacity for transparency-related activities. All of the national

[28] As footnote 26 above.

[29] National projects were approved for Cambodia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Uganda and Uruguay.

projects have components on greenhouse gas inventories and on the transparency of mitigation actions, and some have a sector-specific focus. Some projects also address the transparency of adaptation actions and of support needed and received. The global project aims to establish the Global Coordination Platform of the CBIT to enable coordination, maximize learning opportunities and foster knowledge-sharing to facilitate transparency enhancements. A dedicated web page on CBIT has been created on the GEF website.[30]

48. In the context of its Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Strategy, the GEF provided targeted support to countries for strengthening their capacities to meet their commitments under the Rio Conventions. This type of capacity development focused on addressing systemic cross-cutting national environmental management matters in GEF recipient countries.

49. GEF agencies continued to support countries during the formulation and development of project proposals through the implementation of capacity-building activities. All the projects that were approved by the GEF in the reporting period have been confirmed to correspond explicitly to national priorities, including those identified in NCs, BURs, TNAs and, since COP 21, intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) or NDCs, as appropriate.

50. Through the GEF Gender Partnership, the GEF secretariat, with the active participation of gender focal points from each GEF agency as well as representatives of the secretariats of the Conventions, the GEF CSO Network (of civil society organizations), the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group and other key partners, promoted an enhanced knowledge base on gender, collaboration and learning.

51. The GEF supports the Global Support Programme (see para. 7(a) above) with a view to providing technical support to developing countries for preparing high-quality NCs and BURs. During the reporting period, activities undertaken under the programme included: reviews and technical backstopping of NCs, BURs, INDCs and NDCs; technical workshops for NCs, BURs, INDCs and NDCs in different regions; sharing of best practices, guidance and methodologies through publications and webinars, including on gender-responsive NCs, NDC implementation and institutional arrangements, the use of the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* and inventory management systems, coastal and water adaptation, and engaging policymakers in climate issues and decisions related to MRV through the BUR process; developing a roster of international experts on the Global Support Programme website; and supporting the establishment of two South–South communities of practice in Latin America and in West Africa as well as a Portuguese-speaking cluster on MRV.

C. Capacity-building elements in the report of the Adaptation Fund Board

52. During the reporting period, the AFB approved an updated framework for the Readiness Programme for Climate Finance and decided to take further steps to integrate the programme into the Adaptation Fund's operations, policies and guidelines, strategies, workplan and budget.

53. Technical assistance grants were made available for NIEs to help strengthen their capability to address and manage environmental and social risks and gender considerations, and readiness workshops helped raise awareness and enable the exchange of information on the Adaptation Fund's environmental, social and gender policies. Provision of support for the development of gender-related capabilities also served the goals of the gender policy and action plan approved by the AFB in March 2016. Furthermore, the AFB made a gender guidance document available to NIEs to assist them in complying with the Adaptation Fund's gender policy and action plan and in mainstreaming gender considerations.

54. Specific capacity-building activities undertaken during the fiscal years 2016 and 2017 included: an NIE seminar; regional climate finance readiness workshops; climate finance webinars; a global climate finance readiness workshop for the LDCs; the support

[30] https://www.thegef.org/topics/capacity-building-initiative-transparency-cbit.

and maintenance of the knowledge exchange platform for direct access, in collaboration with the Climate and Development Knowledge Network, to disseminate content on direct access and NIE adaptation stories; the approval of two South–South cooperation grants to support developing countries in identifying suitable national institutions as NIE candidates and in preparing and submitting an application for accreditation; the approval of six technical assistance grants to help NIEs strengthen their capabilities to address and manage environmental and social risks and gender considerations; and the approval of three technical assistance grants to help NIEs strengthen their capabilities to mainstream gender in policies, procedures and manuals for assessing, mitigating and managing environmental and social risks in projects and programmes.

55. The Adaptation Fund secretariat continued to implement its communications and outreach strategy for the Readiness Programme for Climate Finance as well as its strategic partnership with the Climate and Development Knowledge Network through the joint initiative Climate Finance Ready.[31] During the reporting period, the AFB increased its efforts to disseminate news and stories about the Adaptation Fund's work, including news releases and project stories in multiple languages. The secretariat also increased its media outreach efforts to further highlight the value of the Adaptation Fund, including through newsletters, and enhanced engagement with NIEs and other stakeholders to cross-promote products and project activities. YouTube videos were prepared, and new brochures, flyers (in multiple languages), briefing notes, posters and bookmarks were created and disseminated at events, conferences and workshops.

[31] See https://climatefinanceready.org/.